

03500.017673

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
Masashige TAMURA ) Examiner: Unassigned  
Application No.: 10/693,981 ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Filed: October 28, 2003 )  
For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS ) December 18, 2003

Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the patent documents listed on the enclosed citation Form PTO-1449. A copy of the listed patent documents are also enclosed.

The Examiner's attention is also directed to the following U.S. Applications

<u>APPLICATION NO.</u>	<u>FILING DATE</u>	<u>GROUP ART UNIT</u>	<u>STATUS</u>	<u>APPLICANT</u>
10/421,775	04/24/2003	2852	Pending	Tamura
10/440,192	05/19/2003	2851	Pending	Tamura

For the Examiner's convenience, a copy of the cited Applications also are enclosed.

### STATEMENT/PETITION/FEE

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of the application. Accordingly, Applicant submits that no Statement, Petition, or Fee is necessitated by the filing of this paper. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee necessitated by the filing of this paper to Deposit Account No. 06-1205. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed for that purpose.

### REMARKS

Japanese Patent Document No. 6-308829 is discussed at least at page 2, line 6 through page 3, line 7 of the specification.

Japanese Patent Document No. 9-218575 is discussed at least at page 3, line 16 through page 4, line 15 of the specification. U.S. Patent No. 5,752,141 is identified as being in the family of Japanese Patent Document No. 9-218575.

Japanese Patent Document No. 10-142888 is discussed at least at page 4, line 16 through page 5, line 23 of the specification.

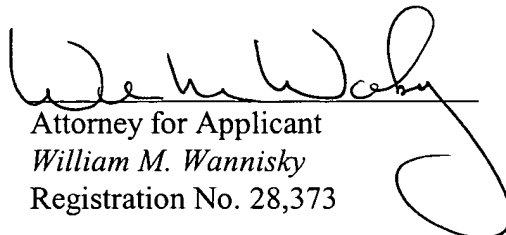
### CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Favorable consideration hereof is earnestly solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our New York office at the address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WMW/tas

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT  
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Submitted to the PTO: December 18, 2003

DEC 18 2003

ATTY DOCKET NO.  
**03500.017673**APPLICATION NO.  
**10/693,981**

APPLICANT

**Masashige TAMURA**

FILING DATE

**October 28, 2003**

GROUP

**Unassigned**

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	<b>5,508,794</b>	<b>04/16/96</b>	<b>Ikesue, et al.</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>260</b>	
	<b>5,752,141</b>	<b>05/12/98</b>	<b>Nishimura, et al.</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>227</b>	

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
<b>6-308829</b>	<b>04/11/94</b>	<b>Japan</b>			<b>Abstract</b>
<b>9-218575</b>	<b>08/19/97</b>	<b>Japan</b>			<b>Abstract</b>
<b>10-142888</b>	<b>05/29/98</b>	<b>Japan</b>			<b>Abstract</b>

## OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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